

that the title of the bill which reads to provide additional functions and powers of the Commission is in error because we are not providing for additional powers and functions. We are simply reversing the Attorney General's Opinions that essentially defied legislative intent. This is not going to add any additional staff to the Mexican-American Commission. It is not going to cost anything additionally. All it is going to do is that when someone calls the Mexican-American Commission and says, can you translate this for me, they will then over the phone be able to do that. When a client comes in to the Mexican-American Commission offices and says, could you help me fill out these forms, they will then be able to help them fill out those forms. Again, the bill is derived directly from an interim study that we did, LR 225, over this last interim. It is...the wordage is very narrow. We are not opening this up to lots and lots of cost and things such as that. We were very clear in our testimony, Senator Nichol and myself, along with Rudy Peralez who is Director of the Mexican-American Commission, we were very clear as to the intent of this and that we are not seeking additional staff or additional funds. I would appreciate your support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Martin Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, as Senator Kilgarrin has aptly stated, we did hold hearings in both Scottsbluff and Omaha right in the Guadalupe Centers where the Mexican-Americans have their social activities and we did find that there was a little bit of different attitude between for instance the Scottsbluff area and the Omaha area. The Omaha area, of course, is provided with probably a few more services and they have been established a bit longer perhaps than the Scottsbluff Mexican-American community, and we found that it was necessary for the Mexican-American Commission or would be an advantage to us to have them provide certain services, very limited services, however. And I am sure that none of us are interested in expanding that into anything else but limited services. It seems kind of silly to help a person, for instance, go down to one of the county offices or perhaps the welfare office and then not be able to translate for them or whatever might have to be done. We had kind of an interesting experience out in Scottsbluff. We actually had a couple of ladies testify in Spanish and this was quite an experience. We always think I guess that everybody ought to be able to learn to talk English, or speak English, and we found that there are still people that feel much more comfortable with their native language. So we do have a translation problem, but I support this legislation. I think it is a step in the right direction, and